



Senate

File No. 565

General Assembly

February Session, 2006

(Reprint of File No. 160)

Substitute Senate Bill No. 565
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 19, 2006

AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PLUMBERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-334d of the 2006 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) As used in this section:

5 (1) "Accredited continuing professional education" means any
6 education of an electrician or plumber that is designed to maintain
7 professional competence in the pursuit, practice and standards of
8 electrical work or plumbing and piping work and that is approved by
9 the commissioner and is provided by an organization, institution or
10 agency that is approved by the commissioner;

11 (2) "Certificate of continuing education" means a document issued
12 to an electrician or plumber by an organization, institution or agency
13 approved by the commissioner that offers accredited continuing
14 professional education, which (A) certifies that an electrician or

15 plumber has satisfactorily completed a specified number of continuing
16 education hours, and (B) bears the name of such organization,
17 institution or agency, the title of the program, the dates during which
18 the program was conducted, the number of continuing education
19 hours satisfactorily completed and the signature of the director of such
20 organization, institution or agency or the signature of the director's
21 authorized agent;

22 (3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer
23 Protection.

24 (b) The commissioner, with the advice and assistance of the
25 Electrical Work Board established pursuant to subsection (b) of section
26 20-331, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to (1)
27 establish requirements for accredited continuing professional
28 education for electricians licensed pursuant to sections 20-330 to 20-
29 341, inclusive, as amended; (2) establish qualifying criteria for
30 accredited continuing professional education programs and establish
31 qualifying criteria for acceptable certificates of continuing education;
32 and (3) provide for the waiver of required accredited continuing
33 professional education for electricians for good cause.

34 (c) The commissioner, with the advice and assistance of the
35 Plumbing and Piping Work Board established pursuant to subsection
36 (d) of section 20-331, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
37 chapter 54, to (1) establish requirements for accredited continuing
38 professional education for plumbers licensed pursuant to sections 20-
39 330 to 20-341, inclusive, as amended, which regulations shall require
40 not more than a total of seven hours of accredited continuing
41 professional education every two years, except in the event of
42 significant changes to the building code, as approved by the Building
43 Officials and Code Administrators International, Incorporated, that
44 relate to plumbing, the commissioner, at such commissioner's
45 discretion, may require more than a total of seven hours of accredited
46 continuing professional education every two years; (2) establish
47 qualifying criteria for accredited continuing professional education

48 programs and establish qualifying criteria for acceptable certificates of
49 continuing education; and (3) provide for the waiver of required
50 accredited continuing professional education for plumbers for good
51 cause.

52 [(d) Any plumber who has served an apprenticeship that included
53 at least seven hundred hours of related classroom instruction shall be
54 exempt from any continuing education requirement established
55 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.]

56 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section,
57 any person who has been issued a P-6, P-7, W-8 or W-9 license
58 pursuant to section 20-334a of the 2006 supplement to the general
59 statutes and the regulations of Connecticut state agencies shall not be
60 required to meet the continuing education requirements established
61 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	from passage	20-334d

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill as amended makes changes to the continuing education requirements for plumbing and piping work licensees. There is no fiscal impact.

House "A" eliminates the continuing education exemption for plumbers whose apprenticeship included at least 700 hours of related instruction. This has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 565 (as amended by House "A")*****AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PLUMBERS.****SUMMARY:**

This bill limits the hours of continuing education that Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) regulations may require of plumbers to seven every two years. If there are significant changes to the building code that relate to plumbing, the bill allows the DCP commissioner to increase the requirement. By law, the DCP commissioner may adopt regulations to establish requirements for accredited continuing professional education for plumbers and qualifying criteria for accredited continuing professional education programs.

The bill exempts holders of P-6, P-7, W-8, and W-9 plumbing and piping work licenses from meeting continuing education requirements. It eliminates an exemption for plumbers who have served an apprenticeship that included at least 700 hours of related classroom instruction.

*House Amendment "A" eliminates the continuing education exemption for plumbers whose apprenticeship included at least 700 hours of related instruction.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Continuing Education Requirements***

DCP regulations require unlimited plumbing contractors to take six hours of continuing education every year and limited contractors and unlimited journeymen to take three hours every year. The regulations

identify the following areas of study as “acceptable”: licensing or business law related to plumbing, the current State Building Code related to plumbing, and any area recommended by the Plumbing and Piping Work Board (Conn. Agencies Reg. § 20-344d-1).

P-6 and P-7 Licenses for Sewer, Storm, and Water Pipes

The licenses permit the installation, repair, replacement, alteration or maintenance of water, sewer, and storm lines from the utility to a point immediately inside a structure (Conn. Agencies Reg. §§ 20-332-4 (g) and (h)). Journeypersons (P-6) may only work for contractors (P-7).

W-8 and W-9 Drain Layer Licenses

The licenses permit the installation, repair, replacement, alteration, or maintenance of sewer and storm lines from the utility to a point immediately inside a structure. DCP no longer issues initial licenses, but renews the licenses of current holders. Journeypersons (W-8) may only work for contractors (W-9).

Related Legislation

SB 562 (File 562, passed by the Senate) also exempts the holders of the P-6, P-7, W-8, and W-9 licenses from continuing education requirements.

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 15 Nay 0 (03/14/2006)